

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 00399 252131Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----252241Z 042307 /73
R 252008Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5584

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EXDIS

PERSONAL FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, PSDC, HO
SUBJECT: PERSONAL VIEWS

REF: STATE 015063

1. CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES ON ASSUMING YOUR OFFICE AS SECRETARY OF STATE. YOU HAVE HAD A LONG CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, AND AS A RESULT HAVE RECEIVED THE ACCLAMATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE, AS WELL AS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS. I DELAYED MY CONGRATULATIONS UNTIL YOU ASSUMED YOUR OFFICE. THE PRESIDENT HAS SELECTED AN OUTSTANDING CABINET, AND WE ALL HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL SERVE THE COUNTRY WITH GREAT DISTINCTION AND INTEGRITY. I THOUGHT I WOULD TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CABLE YOU AFTER I RECEIVED YOUR CIRCULAR TELEGRAM INVITING ALL AMBASSADORS TO SEND YOU THEIR VIEWS.

2. I AM PLEASED THAT AMBASSADOR TODMAN HAS BEEN SELECTED AS ASSISTANT
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SECRETARY FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS. HE HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE LEADERS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HONDURAS. I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH HIM DURING A BRIEF VISIT TO SAN JOSE LAST WEEK. I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL BE AN OUTSTANDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND IT WILL BE AN HONOR FOR ME TO WORK WITH HIM.

3. I FIND HONDURAS TO BE AN INTERESTING COUNTRY AND ONE IN WHICH THERE

ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UNITED STATES TO IMPROVE OUR ALREADY GOOD POSITION. AT PRESENT, WE ARE FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR TO END THE DISPUTE THAT CAUSED A WAR IN 1969 AND HAS SUBSEQUENTLY HINDERED THE REINTEGRATION OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET. FURTHERMORE, I HAVE BEEN HELPING UNITED BRANDS MAKE THE NECESSARY CONTACTS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS A RECENT EXPROPRIATION OF COMPANY LANDS

BY THE GOVERNMENT. I AM NOT INVOLVING MYSELF DIRECTLY IN THE NEGOTIAT-

IONS BUT AM ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM BY KEEPING COMMUNICATIONS OPEN BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPANY. WE ARE ALSO MONITORING THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE TEXACO REFINERY HERE AND THE GOVERNMENT. THE REFINERY WISHES TO RAISE PRICES

BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED.

4. I BELIEVE I HAVE GAINED THE CONFIDENCE OF CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR AND OTHER LEADERS DURING THE SHORT THREE-MONTH PERIOD THAT I HAVE BEEN HERE. I HAVE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO OPEN UP AND MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ALL SOCIAL GROUPS SO THAT I CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND AND DEAL WITH THE MANY CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN HONDURAS AT PRESENT. I THINK YOU ARE AWARE OF MY LONG RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE. IT WOULD BE AN HONOR FOR ME TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE UNITED STATES IN HONDURAS DURING THE CHALLENGING TIMES TO COME.
BECKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEGUCI00399
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770027-0541
Format: TEL
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770119/aaaaaqhk.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b23f08d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 15063
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3502972
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERSONAL VIEWS
TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, PSDC, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b23f08d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009